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INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Tractor Works and PW Camp No. 7238/21
at Saratov

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1. At the Saratov camp [REDACTED] there were approximately one thousand German and Hungarian prisoners of-war in November 1946. By September 1948, the total number had been reduced to four hundred Germans. Prisoners were housed in a stone building located within the tractor works. Specialists among the prisoners were given preferential treatment, especially in the matters of food and freedom.
2. The camp was equipped with a library which provided the inmates with books, mostly political, and German newspapers from the Russian Zone which began to arrive in the summer of 1947. A movie was shown to the camp every four weeks. Some of the prisoners were permitted to take a three-month course at the political school of the ball-bearing works' PW camp. There was no apparent indication that completion of the course resulted in earlier release.

3. The Saratov Tractor Works, situated between the Saratov II railroad station and the Volga river (see Attachment I), is an old plant with the exception of one building which was still under construction in September 1948. This building is an annex to the workshop in which the cam shafts are finished. (See Attachment II for the location of various buildings in the tractor works.) Until 1947-1948, the production of the plant depended upon completely outmoded machines, in part of Russian origin. However, at the turn of the year many new machines, mostly American and English, were installed; a few were German war-booty machines. The lathe shop, the milling shop, and the building in which the cam shafts are finished have all been completely re-equipped. In the first two shops alone there are 250 new metal-turning machines. New equipment installations in the forge have been in progress since 1946. Until this complete mechanization, most of the work had been done by hand.

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These parts are shipped to Stalingrad, where the tractors are assembled.

5. The Saratov works produces two different kinds of cylinder blocks: the larger weighs 85 kilograms; the smaller, 65 kilograms. Both types are made for four-cylinder engines and they are produced at the rate of 220 small and 70 to 80 large cylinder blocks daily. However, a considerable percentage of them have to be discarded.
6. Cam shafts, cardan shafts, and valves are manufactured, and fans are stamped out in the forge. The first workshop, which includes the lathes and the mill, is devoted exclusively to the production of cylinder blocks; the second shop produces mostly shafts and toothed wheels. The complete processing of a cylinder block involves fourteen different machine operations.
7. The Saratov Tractor Works has its own power station. Having a power station, it is dependent on electricity.
8. The plant was under a civilian director, a Jew, who allegedly has worked for the Krupp Works in Germany. Total number of employees was about 1500 civilians and 800 PWs. With the decrease in the number of PWs, which are reported to have been reduced to 400, civilian workers have been increased accordingly. Work is done in three shifts of eight hours each. The works is guarded by the employees, including women. Soviet Army soldiers guard the PWs.

Attachments:

- I. Saratov, showing location of tractor works and other installations
- II. Saratov Tractor Works

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Comment: The attached sketches do not agree entirely with similar sketches contained in previous reports, but which are correct cannot be determined at present.

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